United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3410 (NA-12-05)
Date: August 17, 2012

Subject: 2012 Aerial Detection Survey

To: Erin Connelly, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

This 2012 survey and analysis of forest insect and disease related damage on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) is based on the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) aerial survey data. A total of 1,574 acres of visible damage was mapped within the proclamation boundary. The most common damage causing agent in 2012 was drought stress. Based on field reports and the phone calls received by this office this likely is the result of the severe and moderate drought conditions the occurred across the ANF in April, May and the above average temperatures experienced in July. Discoloration was noted on American beech, red maple and overstory black cherry. Pockets of beech bark disease and wind throw related mortality were also reported. Discoloration and mortality were reported on both Ranger Districts, 473 and 190 acres on the Bradford District and 888 and 23 acres on the Marienville District, respectively (figure 1).

District Rangers and other field-going personnel are reminded that they have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office. Activity such as an unusually high numbers of caterpillars present in the forest in early spring and summer may be a prelude to an expanded defoliation event.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte or Ann Steketee at (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

Robert Lueckel

Field Representative

Morgantown Field Office

Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Marienville RD w/enclosures
Andrea Hille, Forest Silviculturist

RMT/AKS

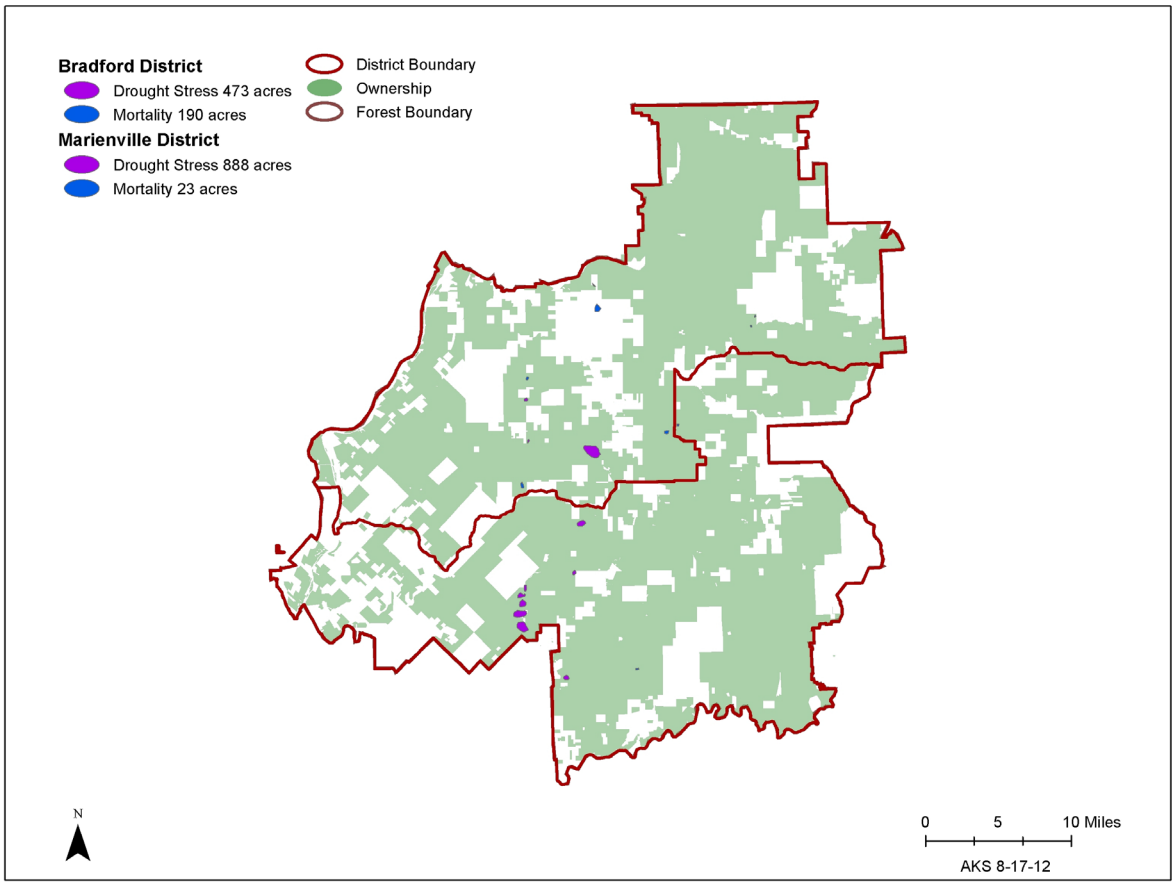

Figure 1. Aerial survey result for July 11 and 12, 2012 detection flight of the Allegheny National Forest.